



Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man

UNITED STATES AG. SOCIETY.

The annual Show and Fair which took place at Louisville, seems in many respects to have been quite brilliant, and in others not very successful. As the weather was very pleasant there was a great concourse of people, and the receipts amounted to about \$21,000. This was enough to meet the expenditures occasioned by the preparation of grounds, &c., and payment of premiums, leaving a small surplus on hand.

The great features of the show consisted in splendid Horses and Durham Cattle. The other departments of stock though very good, were small in number.

Every one speaks in high terms of President Wilder, who sustained himself in his arduous and responsible position, with his usual tact and urbanity.

The awards in connection with the trial of Mowing and Reaping Machines at Syracuse, were declared at Louisville, so far as they have been decided. Those on mowers have not yet been settled. The following is the list of premiums on implements awarded at the Syracuse Trial. We shall give those on mowers as soon as practicable:

Reapers. First premium, to C. H. McCormick, Chicago, Ill., Gold Medal and Diploma. Second to W. A. Wood, Housick Falls, N. Y., Manny's patent with Wood's improvement, Silver Medal and Diploma. Third to Warder, Brokaw & Child, Springfield, Ohio, Bronze Medal and Diploma.

Combined Reapers and Mowers. First premium to W. A. Wood, Housick Falls, N. Y., Manny's patent with Wood's improvement, Gold Medal and Diploma. Second, to the Buffalo Agricultural Machine Works, Kirby's patent, Silver Medal and Diploma. Third, to Warder, Brokaw & Child, Springfield, Ohio, Bronze Medal and Diploma.

Grain Header. To Jonathan Haines, Pekin, Ill., special Diploma.

Hay Presses. To Wm. Deering & Co., Albany, N. Y., for stationary Press, first premium, Silver Medal and Diploma. To the same for Portable Press, first premium, Silver Medal and Diploma.

Grain Cradles. To H. Robinson, Lafayette Square, Ontario county, N. Y., first premium, Bronze Medal.

Scythe-Snaths. To Frost, Burk & Co., Springfield, Vermont, Bronze Medal.

Hay-Rakes. To Hatch & Cook, N. Y., for superior rakes, Certificate of Merit.

THE BERRY CROP.

It used to be the remark of an old neighboring farmer that a little thing was often bigger than a great one. By which he meant, that the consequences of small actions or the accumulations of little things, often brought about greater results than greater actions or things. This is evident in the berry crop.

A berry is a very small thing, hardly worth noticing. Most of them grow wild—spring up spontaneously in the fields, in the woods, in the swamps, and in the meadows, without any help or care from man, seemingly growing better from his neglect of them. They are the prey of birds and beasts, and of insects, and yet what is left by them and gathered by man, swell up an aggregate really astonishing. Some very good observations on this subject have been published by the editor of the Boston Cultivator, by Mr. Flaggs in Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture, and others. We saw by the Tribune, that not long since, the subject came up in a meeting of the "American Institute Farmer's Club" of New York, when the following remarks were made:

"One of the regular subjects of the day was now called up for discussion. This was the general subject of small fruits."

Prof. Mayes.—If we would get the true market value of small fruits grown in this country, no doubt it would equal the value of the cotton crop. It would astonish all who live in this city to learn the quantity of berries brought into the city. It is estimated that Drew & French, only one commission house, will sell this season a hundred thousand dollars worth of berries and small fruits. The enormous quantity of produce received in the city may be guessed at, when we learn that the Camden and Amboy Railroad have received \$1,400 freight in one day, at eight cents a basket, for peaches.

Blackberries.—Mr. Lawton was called upon to state his manner of cultivating the Lawton blackberries. He said he would plant the roots in rows ten feet apart and four feet between plants, and cultivate two or three rows of potatoes between the rows. They will bear some berries the next year after setting and come to maturity in three years. I always cut away one-third of the new growth. The berries set upon the vines ripen from two to five per cent. a day, and each plant will grow an average of three hundred berries. The plants need no training or support, and will grow, the first year, about four feet long. It has been suggested that this variety of blackberries would deteriorate, but they have not done so with me. The advantage of this variety is its long continuance in bearing.

Prof. Mayes.—I have settled down upon this plan: First, to throw out a furrow with a two-way plow, and run a subsoil plow in the bottom of that furrow, and I manure highly. I do not plant so far apart as Mr. Lawton, and I trim closely, and use the cultivator between the rows. If the old plants are well cut away, the new shoots will be stronger. I think the quality is very much improved by training the vines upon trellises. The fruit is larger and better upon strong shoots, and nothing feels the advantage of high manuring more than all the bramble family, particularly the application of liquid manure. You may manure all you can, but the fruit will not be any the better for it. This is also the case with grape vines. They

are rank feeders. I have found arching and tying the vines together a good plan."

There has been no attempt to ascertain what amount of berries are picked and sold in Maine, but if a true account could be had, it would astonish any one who has never made any observation on it. The Bangor Whig & Courier says that E. A. Upton & Co., of Bangor, have purchased and sent away the present season, the following amount of berries:

495 pounds of strawberries,	\$63.51
7045 pounds of raspberries,	337.66
3731 pounds of blackberries,	305.37
11,271 pounds, making a total of	\$706.54

Or, by measure, 281 bushels.

WHAT IS A GOOD COW?

Every man likes to own a good cow, but people do not always agree in what really constitutes a good cow. Some cows will give a great flow of milk a little while during the year, and then fall off greatly, while others will be more uniform in their yield of milk, and hold that uniformity a greater part of the year. It is evident that the latter is the most profitable and therefore the better cow.

A writer in an exchange paper (and we are sorry that the name of the paper has escaped us) gives the following definite rules or figures as constituting a good cow.

"A cow that will average five quarts of milk a day through the year, making 1,825 quarts, is an extraordinary good cow. One that will yield five quarts a day for ten months is a good cow, and one that will average four quarts during that time is more than an average quality. That would make 1,200 quarts a year, which at three cents a quart, is \$36. We believe the Orange County milk dairies average about \$40 per cow and the quality of the cows is considerably above the average of the country."

It is as important to keep a cow good as it is to get her good. This can never be done by a careless, lazy milker. Always milk your cow quick, perfectly clean, and never try to counteract nature by taking away her calf. Let it suck, and don't be afraid "it will hurt her to death." It will distend the udder and make room for the secretion of milk. Be gentle with your cow and you will have a gentle cow. Select well, feed well, house well, milk well, and your cow will yield well."

ADVANTAGE OF IMPROVED IMPLEMENTS. Prof. Mayes says that he has realized great benefits from the use of improved implements in cultivating his land this season. "Owing to the excess of moisture," says he, "the growth of weeds has been excessive, and without these tools many of our crops would have been lost, as by the old system of hoes, forks, and spades, with 50 men we could not have kept the crops clear, whereas with these tools and eight men we have succeeded as usual. When we had thirty acres in similar crops to those now grown, without the improved tools, we employed twenty men; now with more than one hundred acres we have but eight men, and the crops in much better order than when the greater number were employed."

GOOD PROSPER FOR ONIONS.

MR. EDGEMOND.—As many of our citizens receive their supply of onions from old Massachusetts, especially since the maggot has driven the culture from your State, in a great measure, I will state to you the present prospect of the crop here.

A few days since, on the grounds of one of our most successful cultivators, I saw eight acres, which he estimated to yield 4000 bushels. They were chiefly pulled, and thrown together in rows, maturing perfectly with the warm winds and dry sun now prevailing. The same gentleman has been troubled with the maggot and the smut, to some extent, but he said the latter was more to be feared than the former. He showed me some of the grown onions which exhibited the smut, on removing the first fold of the skin; he thought such onions would be of no value. If you, as a learned doctor and scientific cultivator, can tell us the meaning of this smut, and the cure for it, you will do a good service to your fellow laborers.

Essex Co., Mass., Sept. 19, 1857.

NOTE. We are happy to hear good news from the onion crop of old Essex. But that smut seems to be a new enemy,—one which learned doctors and scientific cultivators may get puzzled with sometimes before they can cope with it. We had rather discuss a good bowl of silver skin onions, than get mizzled by a lot of smutty onions.

TOPPING CORN IN MAINE.

There is a law regulating vegetable life, which indicates the time, with great accuracy, for topping corn. The time is, when the husks begin to be discolored. When the corn begins to harden, the husks gradually mellow, changing the color to crimson, or white, and showing what on other plants is called rust. Up to the time of the mellowing process, air is excluded from the ear. The mellowing causes the husks to open and lets in the milk to the corn. The progress of ripening off all crops is usually gradual, and generally strikes the husks of corn to kill, very near the tip of the ear first. Topping the corn (cutting the stalks) facilitates the killing of the husks and causes the corn to ripen faster, and better, than cutting it up and putting it in shock. It is the natural process for corn to ripen on the stalk. Corn, unlike other grain, loses nothing by becoming fully ripe in the field. When we fear the season is short the topping should be a few days earlier than when there is plenty of time. There is no fear of frost doing injury to corn, after the husks show touches of mellow. The cause of mellow, or rust, upon all plants, is the same.

PHILLIPS MORRILL.
Glenburn, Sept. 21, 1857.

HORSES—TO PREVENT THEIR GETTING CAST IN THE STABLE. Attach a strap around the neck of the horse, fasten to a rope or chain directly over him, so that when he lies down, the under side of the strap about the neck shall be just twenty inches from the floor, and I will warrant no horse can cast himself in his stable. I know it by trial upon my horse, which was in the habit of getting "down," as we term it, nearly every night and needing assistance to get up.

[A. S. Rogers, in the Homestead.]

A WORD IN BEHALF OF FARMERS' BOYS.

Farmers, did you ever think what a lonesome business farming can be, and often is, made for your boys, just by your unsociability? Do you talk with your sons as you go to and from, and while at work? Or do you work in dreary uncheered silence, unless a neighbor chances to come along or help you a day, and then suddenly recover the flow of speech and flow of spirits? Do you know your boy's subjects of thought? his pet plans? and would he confide to you or advise with you about any new plan or idea? Do you take as much pains to make the daily round of your son pleasant as you would if the son of your neighbor was working by your side? Do you complain that your son "takes no interest" in your work, and at the same time do you take no interest in his plans for pleasure and profit? Do you help him make his "chew and arrow," or his "trucks," or his sled? or does he employ them by stealth, for fear of receiving a reprimand from you for this waste of time? Do you commend his good endeavors, or do you reprimand on every slight occasion, without any manifestation of your appreciation of his diligence at other times?

There is nothing so terribly discouraging as this perpetual fault-finding without any commendation, and yet, who cannot call to mind many fathers who so rarely commend their sons, that it is thought to be said ironically when by chance a word of satisfaction with their conduct is uttered. Farmers' sons feel this more from the fact that they are almost constantly with their fathers. They cannot, like village boys, meet companions at night after their work is done and "have a good time," nor can they every few days see some show, fireman's parade, or other entertaining curiosity, that may serve them for subjects of thought when at work in silence. The farm is their world, and if the father does not try hard to make himself the companion of his boys, to not only seem, but to be interested in whatever interests his sons, to make the hours of work a "pleasant sojourn," instead of a silent dreary drag, and if he does not by consulting with them, and asking for and talking over with them their plans and suggestions, and by proper commendation, encourage them to better efforts in the future,—if he does not do this, why should he be surprised to learn some morning that his son has become tired of the farm world, and had "stepped out" to try the broad untrodden world outside?

How many fathers, whose boys, much to their surprise, leave home just as soon as they can, might justly blame only their own reserve and silence for their sons' discontent. Boys are very much like men, and how can they be contented and happy while working day after day in silence, only when the parental mouth is opened to reprimand some error of omission or commission? No one wonders that the slaves of the south are not contented, and do not feel an interest in their work, and yet, many a farmer treats his boys, so far as companionship is concerned, just as if a slave.

He does not do this because he does not love his boy, though it seems so to the child, but he has "put away all childish things" so far, that he does not appreciate the feelings of youth, and then the boy is his own, and he does not feel under any social obligations to him. I verily believe that boys who "live out" will average to be more contented, and to have more reason to be contented, than farmers' boys who live at home, so far as companionship with, and commendation from the father is concerned.

Perhaps this may be thought oversteating the question, but it is in accordance with my observation. Let any one just observe in his own neighborhood, or still better, observe carefully his own intercourse with his own boys, and he will at once be convinced there is here a great evil, and I think it to be especially observed in the farming community. People who labor hard are apt to become cold and reserved. The work of the farmer, although very suggestive of the most pleasant and instructive conversation, yet can be done with but little interchange of words, and in the quiet monotony of hoeing one hill after another, the father forgets that the son is not as old as himself, with a life time of recollections for his mind to feed upon.

Just for a moment think of this, father, wherever and wherever you may be: is the life of your son made as pleasant and instructive as it ought to be? Does he make a confidant of you, and you a companion of him? If he inadvertently gets into any difficulty, are you the first or last he comes to for assistance and sympathy? Has he reason to feel and think that you are better satisfied with the same service rendered by a neighbor's son than by him, or does he know that you feel peculiarly gratified and pleased by his good conduct?

Think of this thing, fathers, and observe your son's conduct, and if you find that he feels any more confidence that he shall find sympathy and encouragement and assistance from any one else than from you, your duty to him as a father has not been discharged.

Boston, September 22, 1857.

AN ILLINOIS FARM. Mr. L. Sullivan, in Urbana, has a specimen Illinois farm. It contains over 20,000 acres, and although only about seven thousand acres are yet under cultivation, employs over one hundred men! Three thousand acres are planted in corn; and the editor estimates that the farm will produce at least 15,000 bushels of wheat this year, besides large quantities of barley, oats, flax, &c. Mr. Sullivan employs five different reapers this season, and threshes immediately after cutting, employing a steam engine as his power in the latter operation. A blacksmith's shop is located on the farm and employed continually in repairing farm implements; a school is also kept up for the education of children of the workmen. One hundred and twenty-five yoke of oxen and fifty horses are employed.

[Chicago Journal.]

A HINT. Do not forget to keep your yard and garden neat. This is apt to be neglected now, because most gardens have yielded nearly all they will this year. But these weeds will sow their seeds for next year, unless they are destroyed. Besides something is due to neatness and taste.

Kennebec County AG. Society.

The Cattle Show and Fair of the Kennebec Co. Ag. Society will be held at Readfield Corner, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Oct. 13th, 14th and 15th.

The order of exhibition will be as follows:

Tuesday—Examination by Committees at 10 o'clock, A. M. Drawing oxen at 2 P. M.

Wednesday—Fair will be open at 8 1/2 A. M. Plowing match at 9 A. M. Trial of speed of horses owned within the limits of the Society, at 10 A. M. Trial of speed of horses, open to all competitors, at 2 P. M.

Thursday—Address by Rev. C. H. Webster, of Auburn, at 10 A. M. Ladies' equestrian performance at 2 P. M.

An entry fee of \$3 will be charged on speed horses without limitation of territory, and on all others.

For want of a knowledge of men's names and occupation, some errors were committed in making out the list of adjudging committees, as published in the hand bills, some of which are corrected below. Those interested will govern themselves accordingly.

On Horses.—B. F. Wing, Winthrop; L. A. Norton, Readfield; C. B. Judkins, Fayette; Col. John Philbrick, Mt. Vernon; Jona. Moulton, Wayne.

On Town Teams.—John May, Winthrop; John Prescott, Manchester; Wm. Morrison, Fayette; Wm. H. Whittier, Readfield; Benj. C. Robinson, Mt. Vernon; G. M. True, Wayne; John Dunham, East Livermore; Rufus Marston, Monmouth.

On Agricultural Implements and Bee-Hives.—Alden Sampson, Manchester; D. H. Sampson, Readfield; Peter Folsom, Mt. Vernon; Alden Lane, Fayette; Francis Fuller, Winthrop; T. L. Stanton, North Monmouth.

On Beef Cattle.—John Glidden, Winthrop; B. B. Dudley, Mt. Vernon; Wm. T. Hilton, Fayette; Percy Fiske, Readfield; Charles Graves, Wayne; Wm. K. Dudley, Monmouth.

On Ladies' Riding.—R. C. Morrill, Readfield; C. A. Wing, Winthrop; Wellington Hutton, East Livermore; John Bean, Mt. Vernon; N. B. Hutton, Wayne.

On Speed of Horses, in limits of the Society.—Henry Day, Winthrop; Albin Stevens, Mt. Vernon; Monmouth Bodge, Fayette; J. J. Hutchinson, Readfield; J. T. Taylor, Wayne; G. W. King, Monmouth.

For other committees, and rules and regulations, see hand bills.

A building, 80 by 40 feet, is being erected on the Society's Show Ground, to receive articles brought to the Fair, where all will be safe.

S. N. WATSON,
H. N. HUNT,
D. H. THING,
Trustees.

North Fayette, Sept. 22, 1857.

HINTS FOR THE SEASON.

1. Cook or steam as much of the food you can use in fattening your animals, as you can. If you have nothing better to do this work with, take a large sugar kettle or cauldron, set it on some stones, and build a little fire under it, after filling it partly or quite full of the food you wish to cook. Put in, of course, water enough for your purpose. If you pursue this method, you will soon notice the improved steamer and furnaces for looking coarse food, and buy one.

2. Now is your time to draw and pile under cover your winter supply of wood. If it was cut and corded last spring, as it should have been, it is quite well seasoned now, and the ground is dry, almost for the first time since the middle of May. It may soon be wet again. Attend to it now, and have a good deal of hard work for your team. Be sure to place your fuel under cover.

3. Do not forget to drain marshy spots now. That is, dig the ditches for this purpose. It is much more pleasant and economical to do it now, than when the ground is wet.

4. Draw great quantities of swamp muck to your barn-yard, to mix with your manure. The muck is much lighter now.

5. Let your boys trim and hoe out your garden and fence corners, and all nooks where weeds grow. Put all the weeds together in a pile, in a safe place. Let them dry a few days and then set fire to them, and burn them. If you use a little care in this matter, you may destroy the weeds, seeds and all.

6. In some of your pastures, water may be growing scarce. See that all your animals have a good supply of clear, healthy water.

[Ohio Farmer.]

TO PRESENT A BOUQUET. A florist of much experience gives the following receipt for preserving bouquets for an indefinite period, which may be useful to our lady readers:—"When you receive a bouquet, sprinkle it lightly with fresh water. Then put it into a vessel containing some soap-suds; this will neutralize the roots, and keep the flowers bright as new. Take the bouquet out of the suds every morning, and lay it aside ways, (the stock entering first), into clean water, keep it there a minute or two, then take it out, and sprinkle the flowers lightly by the hand with water. Replace it in the soap-suds, and it will bloom as fresh as when first gathered. The soap-suds need changing every three or four days. By observing these rules, a bouquet can be kept bright and beautiful for at least a month, and will last still longer in a very pleasant state; but attention to the fair but frail creature, as directed above, must be strictly observed, or all will perish."

THE CANAL EXPERIMENT. An interesting report from Mr. Beale, Superintendent of the wagon road expedition from Fort Defiance. The canal experiment is pronounced successful. These animals carried seven hundred pounds burden, principally provender for mules, and were less jaded than mules. They eat but little except bushes, preferring them to grass. Mr. Beale conceives it easier to manage a train of twenty camels than one of five mules. Their temper, tractability, capacity for bearing burthens, and going without water, while they live on food upon which other animals would starve, render them valuable for transportation on the prairies. Every unshod animal reached El Paso lame but the camels, not one of which even exhibited fatigue.

THE REAPERS.

BY MARY C. HENSTON.

The reapers have gone with their sickles to reap
The golden fields of grain;
They will garner it up in the storehouse safe
Until winter comes again.
The reapers are whetting their scythes, and the sound
Comes in at the cottage door;
The busy sunbeams gleam brightly on
And sleep on the white oak floor.

A mother sits by the lonely couch
Of a pale and suffering girl;
The warm June breath is slumbering soft
By the side of her ear.
The mother lists, for the child awakes
From her slumbers long and deep;
Her blue eyes wander, as though she sought
Some beloved form to keep.

"They are gone," said she, "that crowned band—
With their harps and robes of white;
But they'd moan 'I'd mingle—be crowned and robed,
And sing with them to-night."
The reapers have done—they are whetting their scythes,
And the sound is borne to her ear;
Her blue eyes wander again around the room,
And she says, with a smile, "They are here!"

The last lingering sunbeam is fading away,
And twilight comes softly and still,
With shadows around her, and pensively sits
Alone on the lowly door-sill.
While the reapers were bearing with songs their sheaves
The reaper of death bore away
The purified soul of the suffering girl,
From itsasket of sorrowing day.

EAST SOMERSET SHOW & FAIR.

LIST OF PREMIUMS.

The following Premiums are offered by the Trustees of the East Somerset County Agricultural Society, to successful competitors, at their next Annual Exhibition, to be held at Hartland Village, on Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 14th and 15th, 1857.

For best span team horses, \$2; 24, 150; 34, 1.
best road horse, 150; 24, 125; 34, 1.
best breeding mare and colt, 175; 24, 150; 34, 125; 4th, 1.

best three years old colt, 150; 24, 125; 34, 1; 4th, 75c.
best two years old colt, 125; 24, 125; 34, 1; 4th, 75c.
best one year old colt, 125; 24, 125; 34, 1; 4th, 75c.

best yearling cow, one year old, 150; 24, 125; 34, 1; 4th, 75c.
best yearling bull, one year old, 150; 24, 125; 34, 1; 4th, 75c.
best yearling steer, one year old, 150; 24, 125; 34, 1; 4th, 75c.

best yearling heifer, one year old, 150; 24, 125; 34, 1; 4th, 75c.
best yearling bull, one year old, 150; 24, 125; 34, 1; 4th, 75c.
best yearling steer, one year old, 150; 24, 125; 34, 1; 4th, 75c.

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FRUIT INSTEAD OF MEDICINE.

There is no doubt but that the free use of fruit is highly conducive to health, and, indeed, almost indispensable to it. Much of the sickness in the western country is occasioned by the want of it. It is the great scarcity of good fruit that creates such a demand for physic in our western country. The various fevers and bilious disorders prevalent in the summer season, are more owing to the want of it than to any other cause. And not until fruit is generally cultivated, and used as an article of diet, shall we be rid of those disorders, which are sapping the life foundations of thousands of our farmers annually. And if the fruit were administered, instead of the physician's prescription, we have no doubt that it would be far better for the patient.

Nature, in this, as in all other respects, has bountifully supplied us with varieties, which, if properly cared for, will enable us to enjoy a succession throughout all the year. But fruit is not only a necessary of life—it is one of its great luxuries. What is more enticing to the palate than luscious fruit? And, as an article of diet, nothing equals it. It is easily raised, costs but little, promotes health, and is liked by everybody. Most people content themselves by cultivating but two or three varieties. This should not be so. Fruit is more needed throughout the summer season than almost any other part of the year. And the varieties which ripen at this time are least cultivated. The farmer cannot take a step which will add more to his own joys, and to those of his own family, than by having such a succession as will furnish him with fruit the entire year.

First on the list in spring time, comes the delicious strawberry. But a little spot of ground is required for its cultivation for the use of the family. Its healthful qualities are well known. Cities well supplied with it are remarkably exempt from disease while the strawberry season lasts. We have accounts of wonderful cures, effected in ancient times, by its use. There are many varieties, but it is not our purpose to note the best of these at this time.

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SHORE & MICHIGAN

SHORE & MICHIGAN

[illegible]

